

ISUZU

DET-00-036

April 26, 2000

00V-121.001 (2)

Mr. Kenneth Weinstein
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, SW Room 5321
Washington DC 20590

Subject: 1999 MY Isuzu Rodeo and Honda Passport -
FMVSS 201 Occupant Protection in Interior Impact -
Part 573 Report

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

On behalf of Isuzu Motors Limited, Isuzu Motors America, Inc. submits this report pursuant to 49 C.F.R. part 573.

573.5(c)(1):

Manufacturer: Isuzu Motors Limited
26-1, Minami-oi 6-chome
Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo 140-8722 Japan

U.S. Liaison Office: Isuzu Motors America Inc.
46401 Commerce Center Drive
Plymouth, Michigan 48170

U.S. Sales Company: Isuzu: American Isuzu Motors Inc.
13340 183rd Street
Cerritos, California 90703

Honda: American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
1919 Torrance Blvd.
Torrance, California 90501-2746

573.5(c)(2), (3), and (4):

See Attachment 1.

573.5(c)(5):

On June 22-24, 1999, NHTSA's contractor MGA Research Corporation conducted an FMVSS 201 compliance test of a 1999 Isuzu Rodeo. The test resulted in an apparent non-compliance at MGA's target AP1 (left and right).

After a thorough investigation and dialogue with NHTSA, Isuzu continues to dispute the validity of MGA's test and believes the vehicles comply with FMVSS 201. Nevertheless, to resolve this matter, Isuzu has decided to undertake a safety campaign in accordance with parts 573 and 577.

573.5(c)(6):

Not applicable

573.5(c)(7):

Not applicable

573.5(c)(8):

Isuzu will modify the interior of the vehicle to provide additional head impact protection at the point identified in MGA testing as target AP1 (left and right). Details of the program will be submitted when available.

Isuzu estimates that owner notification will begin in May 2000 and that a remedy without charge will be available in August 2000.

573.5(c)(9) and (10):

See Attachment 2 for draft copies of the owner notification letters. A draft copy of the dealer bulletin will be submitted as soon as it is available.

If you have any questions about this report, please contact me at (734) 455-7557, ext. 264.

Sincerely,


Akira Nogami
Chief Representative
Emissions & Safety
Isuzu Motors America, Inc

573.5(c)(2), (3), (4) Vehicles Potentially Affected by Make, Model and Model Year plus Inclusive Dates of Manufacture

| Make | Model | Model Year | Number Involved | Inclusive Manufacturing Dates | | Other Descriptive Information to Properly Identify Vehicles | | Estimated Number with Condition |
|-------|----------|------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|--------|---|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| | | | | From | To | From | To | |
| Isuzu | Rodeo | 1999 | 72,752 | Jul-98 | Oct-99 | 4S2CK58W3X4300040 | 4S2CK58W7X4384458 | 100.0% |
| Honda | Passport | 1999 | 27,500 | Aug-98 | Oct-99 | 4S6CM58W5X4400004 | 4S6CK58W7X4427503 | 100.0% |
| | | TOTAL | 100,252 | | | | | |

DRAFT FIRST LETTER**Campaign # 00V-XXX
Bulletin # SB00-XX-LXXX****DEAR ISUZU OWNER:**

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has notified Isuzu of its conclusion that certain 1999 Isuzu Rodeo vehicles do not comply with one of the new performance requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 201, relating to Head Impact Protection.

DESCRIPTION OF THE CONDITION

In testing conducted for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, with the sun visor unlatched and placed flat against the front windshield, a dummy head form propelled into the roof registered a head injury criterion above the maximum level allowed by the standard. This condition could create an increased risk of head injury in a crash.

WHAT WE WILL DO

To remedy this condition, your Isuzu dealer will modify the interior of your vehicle at no charge to you. Isuzu will contact you again as soon as parts needed for this work are available to your local dealer. We currently estimate that the parts will be available by August.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

In the meantime, you can take some immediate steps to enhance your safety. First, always wear your safety belt. Safety belts provide excellent protection against all types of injuries, including head impacts. Second, keep the passenger-side sun visor in its stowed position (against the roof and away from the windshield) and the driver's sun visor in the stowed position unless necessary for safe driving.

If you have any questions about this matter, you may contact:

National Owner Relations Department
American Isuzu Motors Inc.,
13340 183rd Street
Cerritos, CA, 90702-6007
or call the Isuzu Care Team Line at 1-800-643-4070 ext. 309.

After contacting your Isuzu dealer, the National Office or the Isuzu Care Team Line, with any problems, if you are still not satisfied, you may wish to write the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street S. W., Washington, D.C. 20590 or call 1-800-424-9393.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN ISUZU MOTORS INC.

IMPORTANT: *If you have sold or traded your Isuzu vehicle, please enter the current owner's name and address, if known, on the enclosed "Change of Information" postcard and drop it in the mail. Postage has already been paid. We will contact the new owner.*

00V-121.001 (05)

DRAFT SECOND LETTER

Campaign # 00V-XXX
Bulletin # SB00-XX-LXXX

DEAR ISUZU OWNER:

This follow-up notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. As explained in our letter of _____, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has notified Isuzu of its conclusion that certain 1999 Isuzu Rodeo vehicles do not comply with one of the new performance requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 201, relating to Head Impact Protection.

DESCRIPTION OF THE CONDITION

In testing conducted for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, with the sun visor unlatched and placed flat against the front windshield, a dummy head form propelled into the roof registered a head injury criterion above the maximum level allowed by the standard. This condition could create an increased risk of head injury in a crash.

WHAT WE WILL DO

To remedy this condition, your Isuzu dealer will modify the interior of your vehicle at no charge to you. This opportunity will be available to you beginning on August _____, 2000. Isuzu estimates that the work will take only _____ minutes to complete.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

Please contact your Isuzu dealer as soon as possible to arrange a service date. Your dealer will need a few days notice and the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN), as shown in top left hand corner of this letter, to coordinate parts delivery and service schedules. Instructions for making this improvement have been sent to your Isuzu dealer.

You should continue to take special precautions until your vehicle has been returned to the dealer. First, always wear your safety belt. Safety belts provide excellent protection against all types of injuries, including head impacts. Second, keep the passenger-side sun visor in its stowed position (against the roof and away from the windshield) and the driver's sun visor in the stowed position unless necessary for safe driving.

Please ask your dealer if you wish to know how much additional time will be needed to schedule and process your vehicle. Presentation of this letter to your dealer will assist in making the product improvement in the shortest possible time. Please have your dealer refer to Campaign Bulletin SB00-XX-LXXX. To locate the Isuzu dealer nearest you, or if you have any questions regarding this matter, please call the Isuzu Care Team Line at 1-800-643-4070 ext. 309.

Your Isuzu dealer is best equipped to obtain parts and provide service to ensure that your vehicle receives this improvement as promptly as possible. If you believe that the condition has not been or cannot be addressed within a reasonable time, you may contact:

National Owner Relations Department
American Isuzu Motors Inc.,
13340 183rd Street
Cerritos, CA, 90702-6007

or call the Isuzu Care Team Line at 1-800-643-4070 ext. 309.

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After contacting your Isuzu dealer, the National Office or the Isuzu Care Team Line, with any problems, if you are still not satisfied that we have done our best to remedy this condition without charge and within a reasonable time, you may wish to write the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street S. W., Washington, D.C. 20590; or call 1-800-424-9393.

We are sorry for this inconvenience; however, in the interest of your safety, it is very important that your vehicle be brought in to your Isuzu dealer as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN ISUZU MOTORS INC.

IMPORTANT: *If you have sold or traded your Isuzu vehicle, please enter the current owner's name and address, if known, on the enclosed "Change of Information" postcard and drop it in the mail. Postage has already been paid. We will contact the new owner.*